



Mississippi Department of Corrections

Annual Report  
FY 2002

# **Mississippi Department of Corrections**

## **Mission Statement**

To provide and promote public safety through efficient and effective offender custody, care, control and treatment consistent with sound correctional principles and constitutional practices.

## **Vision Statement**

The Mississippi Department of Corrections is a model professional agency that adheres to the values of integrity, honesty and openness in all its practices.

As correctional leaders, we believe the safety of the public is of paramount importance and fundamental to our mission.

Recognizing that people make up organizations, we value all our employees and are committed to their professional development and well being.

We are committed to assisting offenders in becoming productive, law-abiding citizens.

As an agency, we provide excellence in public service and strive to continually improve.

## **Core Values**

### **Integrity**

In the behavior, actions and decisions of our employees.

### **Fairness**

In the consistent treatment of employees, offenders and our dealings with the public.

### **Dependability**

In doing those things that are necessary to fulfill our mission.

### **Respect**

In our relationships with each other and those we serve.

### **Competence**

In the performance of our duties and responsibilities.

### **Openness**

In all of our communications.



## Mississippi Department of Corrections

Dear Fellow Mississippians:

The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) is charged with the mission of protecting public safety while providing for the security, care, control and treatment of individuals convicted of felonies. In Mississippi, there are 39,892 individuals convicted of felonies that MDOC is responsible for overseeing.

MDOC's annual report details our accomplishments for 2001-2002 as well as provides a snapshot of the felony population in the state. There are a few accomplishments that I would like to highlight.

- The MDOC remains in compliance with the county jail portion of the Gates vs. Collier federal court order for the second straight reporting year. This is a significant achievement in that it represents MDOC's continued complete compliance with the two decades old federal court order.
- The MDOC has reduced its composite average annual inmate costs for the second straight reporting year. The current annual cost is \$13,908 compared to \$14,105 in FY 2001 and \$15,662 in FY 2000.
- The MDOC successfully achieved American Correctional Association (ACA) Accreditation for the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI). Significant progress was also made at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, Mississippi State Penitentiary, and all functions of the Community Corrections Division towards accreditation.
- The MDOC worked with the Mississippi Legislature to fund a new comprehensive offender management system for the agency without utilizing general funds.
- The MDOC implemented an effective Security Threat Group Management (gang management) program.
- The MDOC implemented an effective integrity investigation program of agency staff, offenders and offender family members to stop the introduction of illegal contraband and drugs being brought into the prison system.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections is proud to present to you the accomplishments of the agency from July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002. We look forward to achieving greater success in the coming months as we strive to proactively work toward identification of solutions to provide long-term prison overcrowding relief, increase opportunities to provide rehabilitation, and reduce recidivism. It is our hope in achieving these goals that we will also be able to reduce the escalating fiscal burden on state revenues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher B. Epps".

Commissioner



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